(b) To provide better facilities on Bhubaneswar-Vishakhapatnam section (part of the section is in Andhra Pradesh) some trains have been extended from Vishakhapatnam to Bhubaneswar and also Hirakud Express was extended from Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam.

(c) 2805/2806 Vishakhapatnam-Tenali Janambhoomi Express has been extended upto Secunderabad from 01.07.2007. and its load has been augmented from 15 to 21 coaches from July 2007. Introduction of additional train between Vishakhapatnam and New Delhi is however not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Opening of the Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore railway line to passenger trains

1281. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after considerable delay and cost-overruns, Bangalore-Hassan-Manga; railway line has been converted into broad gauge for the purpose of plying passenger trains,

(b) whether currently only goods trains are plying in this section;

(c) whether there is a lot of resentment among the public against not opening the Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore railway line to passenger trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) when it is proposed to open the section to the passenger trains completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore route, passenger train services have been provided long back on Bangalore- Arsikere-Hassan Section and gauge conversion of Hassan -Mangalore has also been completed and commissioned in phases. However, Subramanya Road-Sakleshpur Ghat section has been commissioned for goods traffic only from May, 2006.

(c) and (d) Commissioner of Railway Safety conducted the statutory inspection of Subramanya Road-Sakleshpur section and gave conditional authorization for opening to passenger services even as representations were being received.

(e) It is proposed now to commence passenger services in December, 2007.

Construction of overbridges in Orissa

†1282. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of construction of rail overbridges or flyovers at level crossings in Similia in district Dhenkanal, Chainpal and Boinda in district Anugul and Nirakarpur in Khorda district; and

(b) the up-to-date status of the development, modernisation and upgradation of Shyamacharanpur P.H. Dhenkanal, Taichar Road, Anugul and Boinda railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) For work of Road Overbridge (ROB) at Similia, Km. 442/8-10 in lieu of LC No. 39 General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been approved. Estimate for Railway portion of work has been sanctioned and tender opened but Detailed Estimate for approaches portion has not yet been sanctioned by State Government.

For ROB at Chainpal at Chainage 490-60 between Budhpark-Telcher on NH 23 (LCN T-79) GAD for Railway portion has been approved and tender also opened, Detailed Estime

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for Railway portion has also been sanctioned but State Government has not sanctioned. Detailed Estimate for its portion.

For ROB at Nirakarpur the level crossing at Nirakarpur is having traffic density of 67932 TVUs (Traffic Vehicular Units) only, hence does not qualify for replacement by ROB on cost sharing basis as traffic density should be one lakh TVUs. No proposal has been received from State Govt, for taking up work on deposit terms also.

(b) Shyamacharanpur P.H. and Talcher Road railway stations—All minimum essential amenities as per norms have already been provided at these stations. Modernisation/ upgradation of passenger amenities at stations is a continuous process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities.

Dhenakanal railway station—Following modernisation works have been planned at this station:

(i) Raising and extension of platform and other allied works to accommodate 24 coach trains is planned for completion by 31st March, 2008.

(ii) Following improvement/developmental works have been planned for the year 2008-09.

(a) Provision of 2 bays platform shelter on platform No. 1.

(b) Provision of 3 bays platform shelter on platform No. 2.

(c) Provision of mosaic flooring on platform Nos. 1 & 2.

(d) Provision of Inter Voice Response System (IVRS), pay & use toilets etc.

Angul railway station—Following modernisation works have been planned at this station:

(i) Raising and extension of Platform and other allied works to accommodated 24 coach trains is planned for completion by 31st March, 2008.

(ii) Following improvement/developmental work has been planned for the year 2008-09.

Provision of 2 bays platform shelter on platform No. 1.

Boinda railway station—Raising and extension of platform and other allied works to accommodate 24 coach trains is planned for completion by 31st December, 2007.

Construction of low budget hotels

1283. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has identified sites in Karnataka for the construction of low budget hotels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways would be constructing hotels by themselves or would be leasing the land to private parties for the purpose; and

(d) if so, whether final decision in this regard has, so far, been taken and by when that would be done?